



CLEAN WATER ACTION

MICHIGAN

May 17, 2011

Dear Honorable Members of the House Energy and Technology Committee,

On behalf of Clean Water Action's over 250,000 Michigan members, I strongly to oppose Senate Concurrent Resolution 6.

Clean Water Action and our members care greatly about supporting the scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as they do their job and create standards for harmful sources of pollution.

In addition to Clean Water Action's members, a broad cross-section of Michiganders overwhelmingly support protecting public health from harmful pollution, including carbon pollution. Recent polling results show almost 2/3 of the Michigan voters who were surveyed supported allowing the EPA to do its job. And strong majorities said the EPA should be doing *more* to protect health and the environment and pass stricter standards.

These findings mirror those of national research sponsored by the American Lung Association (ALA) released this year that showed a 69% bipartisan majority supports allowing EPA to do pass stricter standards on air pollution. With good reason-- the ALA estimates that "in 2010 alone, enforcing the Clean Air Act is estimated to have prevented 160,000 premature deaths."

Many people are under the impression that nuclear power is essential to keeping Let's take a look at what some of these standards will be doing to protect health and the environment:

- Upcoming EPA air regulations will apply to hazardous air pollution like mercury, which has already made Michigan's fish unsafe to eat in large quantities and has a negative impact on our commercial fishing and tourism economies.
- Other safeguards will protect Michigan's vital waterways from power plant cooling systems that have devastating impacts on fish breeding.
- EPA will put in place an essential national system for dealing with our toxic coal ash problem. Coal ash is stored unsafely in ponds across the state, many of which have been found to be leaking toxins like arsenic and hexavalent chromium into our water, as near as the Grand River in Lansing.

East Lansing
1200 Michigan Ave., Ste. C
East Lansing, MI 48823
Tel: 517-203-0754
Fax: 517-203-0760

Ann Arbor
205 1/2 North Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tel: 734-222-6347
Fax: 734-222-6473

Clinton Township
23885 Denton, Ste. B
Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Tel: 586-783-8900
Fax: 586-783-4033

www.cleanwateraction.org/mi

1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005-4918

Phone 202.895.0420 | Fax 202.895.0438 | cwa@cleanwater.org

www.cleanwateraction.org

- Currently there are no limits on the amount of carbon pollution that can be emitted into our atmosphere. We believe there should be limits to this pollution. As did the U.S. Supreme Court when they ordered the EPA to address carbon dioxide pollution.

Air pollution protections are not a partisan issue. Many improvements to the Clean Air Act that cleaned-up dangerous pollution were made during the Bush administration.

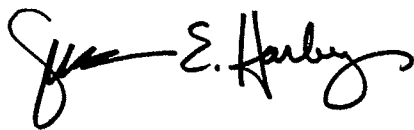
The proposed new EPA rules make good economic sense. The projected benefits of the rules are expected to exceed the costs by a margin of 13:1 and by 2020, that figure is expected to be a 30:1 benefit to cost ratio. Many of these costs are due to lost work days for people who suffer from asthma or other respiratory illnesses that are worsened by air pollution.

In addition to saving taxpayer dollars, new EPA rules will create jobs. Research by the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts, shows that it will take about 1.46 million years of new labor to make those changes happen over the next five years -- the equivalent of 290,000 full-time jobs. These jobs will be in the manufacture, installation, and operation of pollution reduction equipment. In fact, the number of boilermakers in the nation grew by 35% due to implementation of CAA rules.

Our state has a choice when it comes to our energy sources. We can continue to rely on outdated, polluting sources of power, or we can embrace the future and focus on clean energy sources like efficiency and renewable energy, which will spur innovation and investment in Michigan-made technologies. Stronger pollution rules will help push these clean sources of energy that are not only better for the environment, they create more jobs, and they are better for energy ratepayers since they have no fuel costs.

Stronger pollution standards are not leading us towards a train wreck. The real train-wreck for our future would be turning our back on science that would protect public health to side with polluters more interested in their bottom lines than in Michigan families. Please oppose SCR 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Harley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Susan E. Harley, J.D.
Michigan Policy Director